



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

*A local toddler clutches the Tootsie Rolls and pencils given to him by the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force. His village, Baqshai Khayl, was adopted by the unit Saturday.*

## Airmen take on role of guardian angels

Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan**—Locals from the village of Baqshai Khayl, the twelfth town to be selected for the Adopt-a-Village program, welcomed airmen from the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force, with smiles and open arms Saturday, as trucks of food, clothes and supplies poured into their town.

Members from the 403<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion decided the village was a perfect candidate for the program after the initial visit to the town to settle a dispute between some locals and U.S. gate guards.

“Shortly after the Christmas snowfall, a few locals from Baqshai Khayl were caught outside one of the gates trying to remove some concertina wire,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Stephen Casaceli, noncommissioned officer in charge of base operations, 403<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs Bn.

“According to the locals, the wire was directing the water from the snowfall into their village causing it to flood. When we went into the village to assess the problem, we realized the village had been neglected and selected it for the program,” he said.

Once the village was selected, civil affairs went about the process of assigning a unit to the village.

“The way it works is units here will come to us and say they would like to adopt a village,” said Casaceli. “We will then decide what village needs the most help, assign them the village and tell them what it needs.”

See **ADOPT**, Page 3

## Making a difference, one life at a time

By Spc. Worley B. Smith  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SALERNO, Afghanistan**— It was all smiles and thumbs up as Ali Muhammad, a six-year-old Afghan boy, and his father left Forward Operating Base, Salerno. Thanks to the medical expertise of the doctors of the 909<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team Ali will regain full use of his right hand in as few as a couple of weeks.

Ali first came to Salerno Dec. 26 with a second-degree-partial-thickness burn from his mid-forearm to the tips of his fingers, said Lt. Col. Chuck Cox, attending physician.

The 909<sup>th</sup> FST, a reserve unit headquartered at Fort Sheridan, Ill. has been deployed to FOB, Salerno to provide medical support for U.S. troops in the region.

“Our first priority is the U.S. soldiers de-



Photo by Spc. Worley B. Smith, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
*Lt. Col. Chuck S. Cox applies fresh bandages to forearm of 6-year-old Ali Muhammad as Col. John D. Wassner observes.*

See **SALERNO**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Photo by Laura Rauch, Associated Press

*Members of A Company, Task Force-315 of, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., participate in urban warfare exercises in the Kuwaiti desert south of Iraq Monday.*

## 'No timetable' for Iraq action

Although U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq could take about a year to complete, a White House spokesman said Monday that President Bush has "no timetable" for how long U.S. troops massing in the Persian Gulf region will stay there awaiting orders to act.

Bush has said he will consider military force if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fails to prove to the U.N. Security Council that his nation has no weapons of mass destruction.

However, Bush has not said how long he will wait for that verification, Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"The president has not put any type of artificial timetable on how long he believes it is necessary for Saddam Hussein to prove to the world that he's going to comply," Fleischer said.

The inspectors are expected to check hundreds of sites before they are finished.

Earlier, International Atomic Energy Agency spokesman Mark Gwozdecky had said U.N. inspectors in Iraq could take up to a year to complete their work.

His remarks came days after U.S. military planners ordered tens of thousands of extra troops to the gulf region.

## Pyongyang must move first: U.S.

**SEOUL, South Korea** — The United States is willing to help North Korea meet its energy needs if it gives up its pursuit of nuclear weapons, but Pyongyang first must take "verifiable" and "irreversible" steps to

meet international commitments, Washington says.

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said Monday the United States is not offering any deals to end the diplomatic standoff over North Korea's nuclear program and downplayed comments by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly as "nothing new."

"I think that it's clear that North Korea first knows what it needs to do. And we've always said that if North Korea comes into its international obligations, then they will stop isolating themselves," Fleischer said.

The United States and its allies in the region stopped shipments of heavy fuel oil to North Korea after U.S. officials said Pyongyang had admitted working to develop enriched uranium for use in a nuclear weapon.

"There'll be no fuel oil flowing, there'll be no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow until there is verifiable dismantling of their nuclear weapons," Fleischer said.



*North Korea's moves have sparked protests in the South.*

## Did the Chinese discover America?

**NEW YORK** — In his new book, "1421: The Year China Discovered America" (William Morrow), Gavin Menzies claims that a massive Chinese fleet of huge junks and support ships made a two-year circumnavigation of the globe, with extensive exploration of the Americas, nearly a century before Magellan and Columbus.

Needless to say, his assertion has raised an international flurry of debate.

The book has already garnered mixed reviews from the British media, as well as

skeptical articles from The New York Times Magazine and Salon.com.

Menzies is unfazed by the reviews. Indeed, even he was surprised at the results of his research, he said in an interview in the New York offices of his American publisher, Morrow.

"It was a complete freak," the author said. Menzies, a former Royal Navy submarine commander, is a soft-spoken and diminutive presence, not at all the obsessive eccentric he's been painted in the press.

While on an anniversary trip to China with his wife, Menzies recalled, he became fascinated with the history of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, coincidentally completed in 1421. Delving further, Menzies found himself enmeshed in a 10-year research project on the instigators of the two monumental constructions, the Chinese emperor Zhu Di and his nemesis, the Mongol Tamerlane.

Then, while vetting the manuscript (which would have been titled "Two Emperors on Horseback") among historians, Menzies learned of a Portuguese chart, dating from 1424, depicting islands in the Caribbean.

"So here was a Portuguese claim that the whole world had been charted 70 years before Columbus. By whom?" Menzies said. He matter-of-factly presents the answer. "I looked at other charts, and found it was the Chinese. So I abandoned my book, and started this one.

"At the time," he added, "I was really brassed off (angry) about it."

## Who star released on bail

**LONDON** — Pete Townshend, the legendary guitarist of The Who, was released on bail late Monday after being detained earlier in the day on child pornography charges, police said.

Townshend, 57, has not been charged but must report back to police, who are still investigating the case, by the end of the month, Scotland Yard said.

Townshend was arrested at his home in London on suspicion of possessing indecent images of children and other charges.





Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

*Airmen from the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force, distribute Meal Ready to Eat boxes in the village of Baqshai Khayl, Afghanistan. The unit is part of the Adopt-a-Village program and will visit their village at least once a month with more supplies.*

## ADOPT, from Page 1

Adopting a village is more than just a one-time visit with some food and supplies. The unit has to make the village a monthly priority.

"The program requires the unit to visit their village at least once a month if not more," said Casaceli. "The servicemembers usually write home and ask for donations or a variety of supplies to give the locals when they go out."

In addition to monthly visits and donations, the unit can also assess the village's other problems and take them to a higher level.

"The individual unit's job is basic ... they can help determine what their village is in need of," said Casaceli.

## SALERNO, from Page 1

employed to this region, but we will help anyone in need of medical care," said Capt. Lynette Wells, Intensive Care Unit officer in charge.

The young Afghan boy, from a village near Orgun-E, had apparently placed his hand in a pot of boiling tea, doctors said.

Upon his arrival, Ali was treated by Special Operations Forces medics in the area, who dressed the injury and administered antibiotics.

Ali's father was hesitant at first to let outsiders treat his son.

Ali and his father are from a village that remembers the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and as a result has difficulty trusting outsiders.

SOF medics assured Ali's father that the best medical care would be received from American forces at Salerno.

"There's no doubt in my mind that without surgery, antibiotics and the treatment received here he would have lost his right

Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston, 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group

*U.S. Air Force Capt. Nathan Schalles, commander of the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, poses with local children after handing out school supplies in the village of Baqshai Khayl Saturday. The trip was the first of monthly visits planned to the village three miles northeast of Bagram Air Base. Schalles is normally assigned as the operations officer of the 824<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.*

Once the units do the job of supplying food and clothes, civil affairs handles the larger issues.

"Our main concern right now is wells for drinking and irrigation," said Casaceli. Once this has been addressed other issues such as clinics and schools can be taken care of, he added.

According to Maj. David McCullen, base operations officer, 403<sup>rd</sup>, of the many villages in Afghanistan, only 12 have been adopted into the program so far. There are many villages waiting to be discovered. But for Baqshai Khayl, the wait is over.

In addition to Meal Ready to Eat boxes, clothes, diapers and school supplies the airmen from the 455<sup>th</sup> EOG also brought medical supplies and a physician to examine female patients.

Staff Sgt. Trevor Dunn, fire team leader, 455<sup>th</sup> EOG, said the Adopt-a-Village program is something every unit should get involved in. Not only to help the people, but to fight terrorism more effectively.

"The Taliban took a lot from these people," said Dunn. "If they see that we are here to build a good rapport with them and help them rebuild their communities, they will be more willing to give us information to help catch the bad guys."

hand, and in this society that would have been devastating," he added.

In the United States, an injury of this type would be referred to a burn center, an option not available to local villagers. "I'm just happy that we are here and could help," Cox said.

The 909<sup>th</sup> faces many challenges with their mission, but say they're glad to be helping.

"It's amazing to see the effects we have over here," Wassner said. "I'm glad we were able to help and it will be interesting to see what tomorrow holds."

# Guantanamo intel of 'Enormous value'

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — Enemy detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are providing U.S. military officials with intelligence of "enormous value," the general in charge of the facility said.

Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller wouldn't discuss specific information, but he said the intelligence gleaned from detainees is particularly valuable when pieced together with information collected elsewhere.

"It links with that intelligence that's being developed in other areas of the global war on terrorism," Miller said during an ABC News interview Jan. 8. "It provides enormous value to the nation."

The U.S. military has been holding enemy combatants at Guantanamo for a year, as of Jan. 11. Roughly 625 detainees are held in a recently completed detention facility. Enemy combatants who can contribute to America's ongoing fight against terrorism are being detained while those who no longer pose a threat are beginning to be released, he said.

Miller stressed the detainees are treated humanely and are well cared for. They receive culturally sensitive meals and quality medical care, and their religious needs are met. The detainees have access to a Muslim chaplain and receive their own copy of the Quran. They are allowed to pray at the proper times each day.

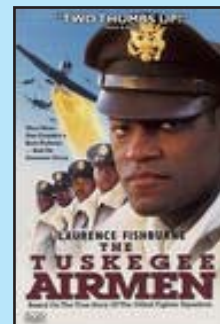
The general pointed out the detainees have gained an average of 13 lbs. each since their arrival. Many have received medical procedures that wouldn't have been possible in their home countries. "Our hospital down there has been able to do a number of procedures to increase (the detainees') quality of life," Miller said.

U.S. policy came under fire over the "enemy combatant" status conveyed to the detainees. Critics said the individuals should be prisoners of war and be given all the rights that status provides under the Geneva Convention.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Tuskegee Airmen." In WWII, the Tuskegee Army Airfield was where the first 'colored' army fighter pilots were trained. This dramatization of real events follows one man, Hannibal Lee, through training to impossibly high standards, Congressional maneuvering and finally acceptance.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Mr. Deeds."



## Local weather

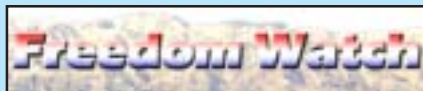
### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze H: 52F L: 27F	Partly cloudy H: 48F L: 23F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Mostly clear H: 63F L: 32F	Clear H: 61F L: 32F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 50F L: 27F	Haze H: 50F L: 27F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 67F L: 41F	Mostly cloudy H: 60F L: 40F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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CJTF-180 Commander —  
Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill  
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Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England  
Public Affairs Officer —  
Col. Roger King  
Public Affairs Sergeant Major —  
Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler  
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Commander — Maj. William Mott  
NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James  
Journalists — Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw, Pfc. Christina Carde

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To be added to the daily distribution list email [william.james@us.army.mil](mailto:william.james@us.army.mil)



# Outback brings 'No rules, Just right' attitude to Bagram

By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Long months away from home and chilli mac used to be what deployments were all about — but no longer.

Sighs of chow-time boredom were replaced with one night of lip-smacking smiles and finger licking when Outback came to town.

Servicemembers waited in a line that wrapped around the dining facility for their taste of Outback's world-famous steak, potatoes, bread, Bloomin' Onion and cheesecake.

"The food was a nice change of pace — a real taste of home," said Sgt. Valdez "Johnny" Bravo, medical equipment repairman, 48<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md.

Bringing a taste of America is what the program was all about.

"I always eat there when I'm at home. It shows a lot of patriotism on their part," said Lt. Col. David King, Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force LNO, 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs, Fort Jackson, S.C.

But preparing fare for so many was an enormous task that the Outback employees could not conquer alone — so they enlisted volunteers. They helped out with every task — from salting potatoes to grilling steaks on huge smoking grills.

"From inhouse to outhouse, it is all about helping out my fellow soldiers," said Spc. Peter Blackwell, Task Force-44, 48<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md. "We are all out here together experiencing the same things. It just feels good to help out."

Blackwell was one of the many volunteers at all five dining facilities on Bagram to help out under



Photo by Spc. Joe Healy, Task Force-82 Public Affairs Office

*Mike O'Dowd, chef at the Outback Steakhouse, Spc. Marc Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and Spc. Micha Spry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 229<sup>th</sup> Aviation grill steaks in preparation for the Outback Steakhouse dinner at the Combined Task Force-82 compound Monday.*

the direction of Outback food technicians.

The technicians were also all volunteers. "It was hard for (the Outback management) to narrow down who would come," said Chellie Letz, Outback food technician from Indianapolis, Ind. "You guys are our heroes ... this was a huge honor for (the selectees)."

Bagram was the second stop for this crew. They recently were in Khandahar brining smiles and meals to the servicemembers there.

Not only did they delight soldiers with a good meal; they also took the task of adopting a soldier. When the crew met a soldier from their home state, they wrote down addresses and offered to send the soldier items they can't get here.

"This is so far away from home, and any contact with home is wonderful," Letz said.

Outback will send hometown newspapers, magazines and other requested item to soldiers during



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

*An Outback employee drops a Bloomin' Onion off at a table.*

their deployment.

Dinner started serving promptly at 1200Z, and the usual quiet of the chow hall was replaced with music and screams for a Bloomin' Onion. The food was just right. And rules were out the window. The crew made sure that everything was perfect.

"We planned a long time for this," Letz said. "We wanted to make sure that the food and atmosphere were set for a great night of Outback fun."



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

*Kellogg, Brown and Root employee Billy Matchett replaces a cheesecake.*



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



*Slow starts and talk of being fired is nothing new for Lavin.*

## Lavin's Last Stand?

As UCLA continues to spiral toward a lost season, Steve Lavin appears to be finished as head basketball coach.

Sources within the school, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told ESPN.com that the coaching staff — including Lavin — expects to be fired at the end of the season.

Arn Tellem, Lavin's agent, told ESPN.com on Monday that Lavin has no intention of resigning inseason and hasn't addressed his immediate future with officials. If Lavin did choose to resign, Tellem would negotiate a settlement with the school.

Tellem's remarks refute newspaper reports out of Los Angeles on Monday that said Lavin has had discussions with friends about resigning before the Bruins' next game, which is Thursday night at home against Arizona State.

UCLA athletics director Dan Guerrero said Saturday he would not fire Lavin during the season.

"Hey, the same thing happens around here every year," Lavin said last week. "Who's getting my job now? I hear Ben Howland (Pitt)? Rick Majerus (Utah)? Mike Riley? Yeah, he didn't get the football job, did he? He'd be good."

"I've been fired so many times, I lose track."

## Warrick, Anthony key Syracuse's win

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The constants for Syracuse this season had been freshman Carmelo Anthony starring on offense and the zone defense struggling to stop teams inside.

The Orangemen, playing



*Syracuse's Hakim Warrick scored a team-high 20 points in the upset.*

hours after entering the Top 25 for the first time this season, had all five starters in double figures and the 2-3 zone was very effective in a 76-69 victory over No. 11 Missouri on Monday night.

"We took a big step with our defense today," coach Jim Boeheim said of his Orangemen. "And any time you have balance on offense that's the key to a good basketball team."

Syracuse was that in its first game this season against a ranked team and its 11th straight win.

Hakim Warrick had 20 points for Syracuse, which held the Tigers (10-2) to 38 percent shooting, well off their 48.3 mark entering the game and 12 points below their average for the season. The Tigers also had a season-high 20 turnovers.

## Muhleisen out for season with broken hip

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska point guard Jake Muhleisen is out for the season with a broken hip.

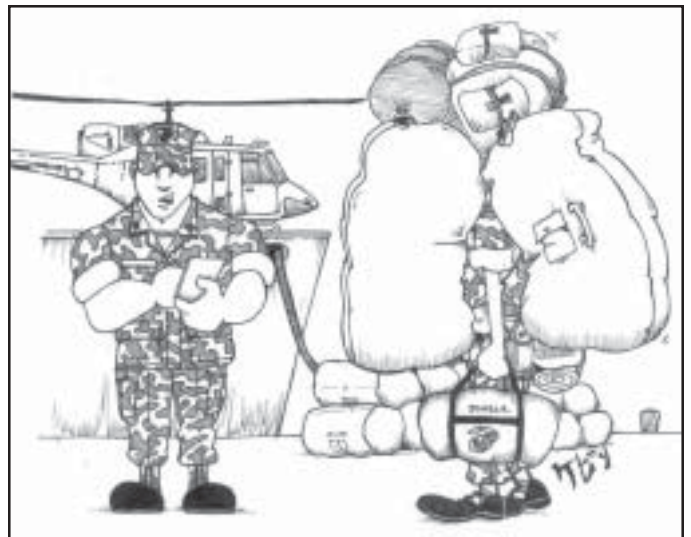
The injury doesn't require surgery but will sideline the player for up to three months, coach Barry Collier said Monday.

"I think he'll be able to come back from it," Collier said.

Muhleisen, a 6-foot-4, 195-pound sophomore, was injured when he fell hard after being fouled early in the Cornhuskers' 92-59 loss to No. 14 Kansas on Saturday.

He started every game for Nebraska (8-6) and was averaging 11.7 points — second on the team — and a team-high 3.4 assists.

## "Has anyone seen Pvt. Jones?"



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support